



## **Latest and Greatest News!**

### **Pastors and Congregations**

**Welcome.** Pastor Tsena Dinssa (wife Degitu, daughter Oliti), Redeemer, Owasso, MI (Michigan MD). Pastor Dinssa arrived in July after relocating his family from Ethiopia to Michigan. Pastor Dinssa was installed by Pastor Jess (Michigan Dean) October 19<sup>th</sup>. Pastors present were (LtoR) George Zornow, Elkart IN, Jess, Tsena, Lonnie Wilkerson, Roscommon MI, Aaron Frey, Trufant MI.



**Welcome.** Pastor Anthony Wick, to Ascension, Fond du Lac, WI. Pastor Wick was ordained at Ascension November 2, 2024



**Retirement.** Blessings upon Pastor David Smith and his family, as he prepares for retirement at the close of this year. Pastor Smith is currently pastor at Trinity, Logansport, Indiana.

**Anniversary.** Congratulations Good Hope L.C. in Boardman (Youngstown OH) celebrated their 95th anniversary as congregation. Bishop Dan Selbo served as preacher and celebrant in their worship service on Sunday, Nov. 17. Rev. Robert Quaintance, their pastor for 32 years, is resting from open heart surgery. Good Hope collected \$9500 (\$100 for each year) and presented Bishop Selbo with a gift for the NALC 2020 Vision Emphasis. Good Hope has a student, Keith Deak, at the NALS Seminary in Ambridge, PA.

### **Support of Mission Congregations!**

During this “Budget Development” time of year, make sure to consider partnering with a Young Mission Congregation or New Start Worship community in the Midwestern Area. Contact Pastor Jess for more information, [midwesternaab@thenalc.org](mailto:midwesternaab@thenalc.org)

Faith Landing, Davison, MI

Current Partner: Redeemer, Owasso

Trinity, St. Charles, MN

Current Partner: **none**

Mission in Christ, Strawberry Point, IA

Current Partner: **none**

First Grace, Osage, IA

Current Partner: **none**

*We will keep a running list of young and new start congregations in the Midwestern Area. Email Pr. Jess with additions if you have any.*

### **2025 NALC Clergy Retreat January 28-30**

“Generous Confessionalism”. Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk, San Antonio TX. See details and registration at:

<https://thenalc.org/clergy-retreat-2025/>

### NALC Disaster Relief (from Mary Bates)

NALC Disaster Response continues to provide emergency relief supplies and provide volunteers to help reach the very rural communities that other organizations are not serving. We have now used approximately 40 teams of 4 wheelers and side by sides (from NC & SC) to deliver to the areas without accessible roads. A big thank you to St. Paul Pomaria and Paul Werts with Celebrate Freedom Foundation and Jerry Miller at Organ Lutheran Church and all their 4wheelers. We continue to assist the large donation centers by providing volunteers and pick-up trucks / 4-wheel drive vehicles to redistribute the amazing donations that have been received. A total of 16 communities have now been served by NALC Disaster Response with 26' box trucks and emergency relief supplies from every warehouse east of the Mississippi River and we will continue to serve as needs are identified. Hundreds of our NALC volunteers have donated their time and energy to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus.

I am compiling a list of our resources which have been used to date and dollar value in addition to the hundreds of volunteer hours donated.

Volunteers have started providing "muck & gut", first locations are in Creston at the community center and Clyde and now Bakersville. Additionally, NALC Disaster Response is coordinating needs and lists of priority needs from our sister congregations throughout NALC - thank you Jesus! As questions arise, I am ready with answers – please call or text me at 740-509-1132. What is greatest need? Camp showers (portable, individual) and garden hoses and then health kits, so they have soap and shampoo to shower.

If someone wants to make a monetary donation, then it should be sent to: NALC Disaster Response, 2113 Harwood Rd., Suite 309, PMB 409, Bedford, Texas 76021-4703. Memo line should say Hurricane Helene. Additionally, we have done a tremendous job collecting camping gear and thank you everyone and Pastor Steven King for the donations from Scouting Inc. Therefore, the needs are for gifts cards which include ability to purchase propane (which becoming more available daily), gift cards to purchase gasoline ( gas stations are coming online), rakes & shovels (all types), and garden hoses, individual camp showers (portable) - our

shower trailers cannot be transported into the rural areas that need them and they will be deployed more centrally. We continue to have the need for volunteers to help work the donation centers and also make deliveries.

### Retreats and Studies

These are provided in case your MD doesn't have a retreat, or if you'd just like to get away from your area and enjoy the environs of other wonderful places.

#### **Retreat for Council Members**, Jan 11, 2025 time and location TBD

The SW Ohio Mission District is sponsoring this retreat and invites any in the Midwestern Area to attend. For more information or to **Register**, email Pr. Mark Daniels, [markluth91@gmail.com](mailto:markluth91@gmail.com)

#### **Society of the Holy Trinity Retreat**, Feb 24-26, 2025 St. Augustine House Lutheran Monastery, 3316 Drahner Rd., Oxford MI.

[www.staugustineshouse.org](http://www.staugustineshouse.org)

Contact Pastor Norman Drew for more information and to register;

[normandrew@gmail.com](mailto:normandrew@gmail.com)

Discussion will be on the nature Byzantine Christology, the full scandalous nature of Christ being fully God and Fully Man and a bit of Luther as a Chalcedonian theologian.

**Michigan MD** pastors and lay leaders via zoom, generally the **second Saturday** of each month at 10a. Pericope devotion followed by sharing of faith journey and concerns for prayer. Contact Pr. Abbott at [midwesternaab@thenalc.org](mailto:midwesternaab@thenalc.org) for Zoom invitation.

### Candidacy for Ordained Ministry Seminarians in the Midwestern Area

Dale Staley - Fuller Seminary, M.Div program. St. John, Grove City, SE Ohio MD. **Approved for Ordination**

Sandy Thompson, Diaconate program. Grace LC, Springfield, SW Ohio MD.

Michelle Kouse, North American Lutheran Seminary network (NALS) / Fuller Seminary, M.Div program. SW Ohio MD.

Monica Nufer, Fuller Seminary, M.Div program. NC Ohio MD.
Scott Stine - Fuller Seminary, M.Div program. SE Ohio MD.
Molly King, St. Paul Lutheran Seminary, M.Div program. SE Ohio MD
Keith Deak, NALS Center at Trinity School for Ministry, M.Div program. NE Ohio MD.
Ethan Zimmerman, NALS Center at Trinity School for Ministry, M.Div program. NE Ohio MD.
Pam Grandmason, Ordination Under Special Circumstances Program Trinity School for Ministry (NALS), Ambridge PA, Michigan MD.
Wade Weaver, Ordination Under Special Circumstances Program, Living Faith, Wabash IN, Heartland MD.

### **Seminarians working on Certifications in the Midwestern Area**

Rochelle Lemieux, St. Paul Lutheran Seminary, working on Pastoral Care certification, Heartland MD
Heidi Yahl, Institute of Lutheran Theology, Pastoral Ministry certification, NW Ohio MD
Christian White, Institute of Lutheran Theology, Pastoral Ministry certification, NW Ohio MD

*If you know of any seminarians in the Midwestern Area not listed here, please email them to Pr. Jess with school, degree / certification being sought, and their Mission District.*

### **Youth News and Opportunities**

**Iowa Mission District Youth Trip** destination TBD; July 27-Aug 3, 2025

#### **“Solid” Lutheran Bible Camps**

- \* Ingham Okoboji in Milford, Iowa, which is near Minnesota, South Dakota, and Nebraska.
- \* Riverside in Story City, Iowa nearer the middle of the state.

### **Resources for Congregations Without Pastors**

**Online Confirmation Program** - contact the Southern Area Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Mark Braaten, 903-316-1594 [southernaab@thenalc.org](mailto:southernaab@thenalc.org) or Pastor Teresa

Peters at [tpeters@thenalc.org](mailto:tpeters@thenalc.org) The current plan is to start new groups next September.

### **Confirmation / Catechism Web Courses**

**[Free]** – Luther House of Study, <https://lutherhouseofstudy.org/courses/>

### **On Line Sermons**

Pastor Jess Abbott posts services / sermons on YouTube. Go to YouTube and search “Abundant Grace Lutheran Church West Chester OH”. Or contact Pastor Jess at [midwesternaab@thenalc.org](mailto:midwesternaab@thenalc.org)

Pastor David Wendel posts sermons on YouTube [https://youtu.be/gCcD\\_lwCbA](https://youtu.be/gCcD_lwCbA), he also posts them on his Facebook page and the NALC Fellowship group; or contact Pastor Wendel at [dwendel@thenalc.org](mailto:dwendel@thenalc.org)

### **Remote Pastoral Care**

If you are a congregation without a pastor, you ALWAYS have a pastor. Contact your Mission District Dean for pastoral advice. Or, your Area Assistant to the Bishop (Pr. Jess) is always available to provide pastoral counseling [midwesternaab@thenalc.org](mailto:midwesternaab@thenalc.org)

### **On Line New Member Class**

A four-session class (over 4 weeks) that introduces Lutheranism and prepares people to join the membership of a congregation. It is also a “Lutheranism 101” class for any who want to attend a to refresh their knowledge (and fellowship with people just joining a Lutheran church). Future classes can be scheduled for groups of 4 or more. Contact Pastor Jess to register for July classes or for more information at [midwesternaab@thenalc.org](mailto:midwesternaab@thenalc.org)

### **Disaster Response**

Volunteer Training and Retreat Center, Caldwell, Ohio. The center is on the property of the national disaster warehouse and is available for service projects, and retreats. Contact Mary Bates for more information and how to get involved, 740-509-1132, [disasterresponse@thenalc.org](mailto:disasterresponse@thenalc.org)

### Intentional Interim Pastor Training

If you are a pastor interested in becoming a trained Intentional Interim Pastor, contact Pastor Marty Ramey [pastormr@gmail.com](mailto:pastormr@gmail.com) and Pastor Keith [Lessrevkeith54@gmail.com](mailto:Lessrevkeith54@gmail.com). They are the NALC Interim coordinators and will be able to provide information about this intentional ministry as well as dates and locations of training.

### Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries Inc. (NALC partner, Ft. Wayne, IN)

[www.lmvfm.org](http://www.lmvfm.org)

If you are a veteran, contractor or family member of the Armed Services who is feeling overwhelmed by life experiences, please give LMVFM a call at: 260-755-2239.

If you'd like to support LMVFM donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars is easy. Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice" which will connect you to a friendly Customer Care Agent and tell them that you would like to donate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to: Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries.

### Lutheran Chapel Week

Spring: Mar. 17-21, 2025

Trinity School for Ministry is a seminary in the Anglican tradition and, as such, uses the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) for all its liturgies in Trinity Chapel. However, once per semester, our Anglican brothers and sisters grant "we Lutherans" the opportunity to lead all the liturgies over the course of one week using the historic liturgies for Matins, Vespers, The Eucharist, and Compline; it becomes **Lutheran Chapel Week!** There is an open invitation for anyone to visit the residential campus any time, but you might consider Lutheran Chapel Week as a special opportunity. For more information on any visit to campus, contact Frontz, Rebecka [rebecka.frontz@tsm.edu](mailto:rebecka.frontz@tsm.edu)

### Series Devotional on 52 Hymns

Pr. Tom Jacobson decided to write a year-long series of devotional articles on his fifty-two favorite hymns, one for each week of the year. You can find these articles on his blog.

[www.theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com](http://www.theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com)

### Congregation Vacancies

The NALC website has a great section to see congregations looking for a full-time or part-time pastor <https://thenalc.org/call-process/>

### Newsletter Distribution List

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter regularly, please provide name and email address. It will only be emailed, and they will be Blind copied (Bcc).

I invite you to submit material for inclusion in future newsletters, but keep your information concise, to the point, and use "links" if you want to provide the reader with access to "long readings". – Jess Abbott, Midwestern Area Assistant to the Bishop (AAB), 513-314-2028, [midwesternaab@thenalc.org](mailto:midwesternaab@thenalc.org)

**Midwestern AAB Schedule** Contact me if you'd like me to suggest some short presentations I can make at event. For convocations, I can provide a short update on NALC priorities and recent efforts.

The following events are on my schedule to attend:

**Dec 2-5** – NALC All Staff, Dallas TX

**Jan 28-30, 2025**. NALC Clergy Retreat, San Antonio, TX

**May 2-3** – Ohio Mission Region (all Ohio Mission Districts) Convocation.

**Aug 3-8**, NALC Luther Week, Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburg, PA

### Midwestern Area Deans

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[www.iowamissiondistrict.com](http://www.iowamissiondistrict.com)

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